



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, James L. Streeter, and Elissa T. Wright.

Tuesday, December 19, 2006

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Office Assistant Elga Concepcion.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Wright

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Director of Parks and Recreation John Silsby.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

Councilor Kolnaski requested a moment of silence for former Town Attorney Joseph Moukawsher.

Councilor Wright commemorated and honored Mr. Moukawsher's extraordinary life of public service and his dedication to the Law.

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

John Silsby, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the Town was recognized twice in the National Parks & Recreation Magazine. He provided an update on the December challenge for the Tercentennial Legacy Playground project. At this time, cash donations totaling approximately \$24,000, as well as a contribution of \$11,500 from a local engineering firm have been received. Mr. Silsby stated that donations may be given on behalf of individuals as a gift, with certificates provided. Donors of \$100 or more will be recognized on the wall of the Tercentennial Legacy Playground.

Tess Castleberry, 36 Sharon Road, Mystic, is working with Parks and Recreation with regard to the Tercentennial Legacy Playground. She became involved with this project because she has a sister who is physically disabled and believes there is a need for this inclusive playground. Mrs. Castleberry asked viewer to consider making a donation through the Parks and Recreation Department.

John Sutherland, 32 Neptune Drive, stated that the Groton Good Government PAC's web site is <http://gggpac.org> which provides a forecast of property taxes and mill rate estimates.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2006-0311 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2006-0266 Public Hearing on Amending Land Use Application and Permit Fee Ordinance

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2006-0195 Citizen Committee on Property Tax Relief

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2006-0306 GMEA/CILU Pension Agreement

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2006-0312 Resolution Authorizing Town Manager to Enter into an Agreement for Elderly/Disabled Transportation

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions

2006-0309 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Anonymous - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Anonymous (Pfizer) - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Penny Bodle - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Chase DiBona - \$1.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Trey DiBona - \$5.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Groton Public Library - \$4.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Elaine Kipp - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Edward Lang - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Irene Latawiec - \$15.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lawncrest Apartments - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mistick River B&PW Inc. - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mystic River Homes Inc. - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Sacred Heart Church - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Barbara Thompson - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Treadway - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Program - \$1,000 - Social Services Discretionary
Patricia Franco - \$100.00 - Parks & Recreation Revolving
Leonard & Therese Podbielski - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Leah Russack-Baker - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Susan Rowley - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Laura Hall - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lisa Mireault - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Faith I. Schroeder - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Ella Petrick - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Charlene Jones - \$2,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Ivan Otterness - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
James Burbank - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Ann Rath - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Anne R. O'Neill - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Johanna M. Case - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Patricia M. Dugan - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
P. J. Abruzzese - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kathy Parker - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Cheryl Gilot - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Jaime Vaudrey - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Marilee M. Clabby - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Janet Gibbs - \$150.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kane Building Company - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Gold Star Pediatrics - \$200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Groton Regional Theatr - \$1,100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Karen Steever - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Ellen R. Russo - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Andrew A. Merckel - \$24.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Amy Renczkowski - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Prabha Prajapati - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Angenette Robinson - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Jennifer Roehl - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Joann Jones - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Marilyn Brinkman - \$300.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Diane J. Glemboski - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kristin Georgetti - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Victor Burdick - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Martin and Patricia Snyder - \$200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Barbara Thompson - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Linda Krause - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Jill Mitchell - \$15.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Paul Filippetti - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Keith Haskell - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Eileen Kennedy - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Katherine Hollay - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Robin and Sharon Hollay - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Richard Turner - \$200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Judith Warn - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Peter Roper - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Marjorie Stilson - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Christopher Kenyon - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Raymond and Virginia Bousquet - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Nancy Giblin - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
John R. Wheeler, Jr. - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Veronique Lamarque - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Cynthia Palmer - \$200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Reid & Riege, P.C. \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Eric McElroy - \$30.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kathryn Hale - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Anonymous - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Sidney Van Zandt - \$200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Anne Mowell - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Carol Fenn - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kenneth Moriarty - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lizanne Johnson - \$150.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Hilda Davis - \$125.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Bobette Clapsadle - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Rose Werner - \$200.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
The Price Family - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
In Memory of John Memorial Fund - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kim Baldoz - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Rose Farrington - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Brian Casey - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Barbara Tarbox - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Ken Barber Appliances - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Paulann H. Sheets - \$3,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Andrew and Kelly Rockwell - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Leticia Flip - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Marcia T. Robinson - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Joyce Payer - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Mark Tiesinga - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lori Huckins - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Michael and Debra Murphy - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Victor Dufault - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Scott, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Several Councilors toured the Catherine Kolnaski School.

Councilor Bond received communications regarding property taxes. She also received a call from a resident wishing to change her service from Connecticut Light and Power to Groton Utilities in anticipation of another rate increase. Councilor Bond confirmed that this was not possible.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Permanent School Building Committee meeting on December 7 at which time the architect stated that the project was on schedule and within budget.

Councilor Streeter stated that he attended a Groton Ambulance Board of Directors meeting.

2006-0317 Impact of State Campaign Finance Law on Groton

IMPACT OF STATE FINANCE CAMPAIGN LAW ON GROTON

Referred

Councilor Scott requested a referral to review State campaign finance law and its impact on the Town.

Responding to Councilor Sheets, Town Manager Oefinger stated that it is possible for the Council as a group to tour the schools involved in the building project.

Mayor Watson met with Toni Hoover of Pfizer to discuss the Town's government. He distributed holiday food baskets at Social Services on December 15. The Mayor went on a tour of the Sub Base with Captain Mark Guinda.

b. Representative Town Meeting

The RTM met on December 13, 2006. The ordinance concerning land-use fees will be going forward; the notice of passage was published and will be effective on January 29.

Mayor Watson stated that the Noank Hatchery lease was signed at the Town Manager's office last week.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Tarbox, a member of the School Redistricting Committee, stated that their last meeting is scheduled on December 21 at which time the decision will be made on the

recommendation to the Board of Education (BOE). The Town Clerk's office has 2007 sporting licenses available for sale.

d. Town Manager

2006-0316 Mystic River Homes Tax Abatement

MYSTIC RIVER HOMES TAX ABATEMENT

Referred

Upon the request of the Town Manager and President of Mystic River Homes Jack Sebastian, the Mayor made a referral to consider increasing the property tax abatement on Mystic River homes, specifically the cottages, from 80% to 100%.

Town Manager Oefinger stated that January 16 is a tentative date for the BOE to meet with the Town Council.

Responding to Councilor Bond, the Town Clerk discussed the redistricting process and hearing dates with the BOE. The Town Manager stated that the BOE is having a meeting to discuss the redistricting plan on January 4, 2007. This would not be a public hearing but the committee making a report to the BOE.

Mr. Oefinger reminded viewers that Town offices will be closed on December 25 and January 1 in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day. He noted that the Town's Public Works Department received honorable mention as the second best public works department in the United States. He thanked Director of Public Works Gary Schneider and his staff for their good work.

e. Town Attorney

The Mayor noted the Town Attorney's donation to the Social Services discretionary fund.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting; no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting; no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting; no report.

d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets

No meeting; no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Wright

No meeting; no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Scott

No meeting; no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting; no report.

h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik

No meeting; no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

There was a Special Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting prior to tonight's Town Council meeting. There will be a suspension of the rules to vote on an item on tonight's agenda.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Responding to Councilor Bartinik, Mayor Watson stated that the 2008 budget discussion can be placed on the January 16 Town Council agenda.

Responding to Councilor Sheets, the Town Manager stated that the data from the Governor's budget proposal will not be available in time for the joint Town Council/Board of Education meeting in January.

Councilor Wright offered copies of reports from the Office of Policy and Management and Office of Fiscal Analysis to the Town Manager. These reports may be relevant to municipal planning in those same areas.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2006-0195 Citizen Committee on Property Tax Relief

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON TAX RELIEF

WHEREAS, the Town Council on July 18, 2006, approved a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to appoint a committee of at least five resident taxpayers, pursuant to the authority in 12 Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 129n, at an appropriate time prior to the initial approval of any tax relief plan by the Town Council, and

WHEREAS, under state law such a committee is to be given a "plan of property tax relief" for its consideration, and

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Whole has discussed certain proposed parameters of tax relief as proposed by Councilor Bond entitled "Initial Outline for Property Tax Relief 65 Years+", now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager should proceed to appoint such Citizens Committee on Tax Relief as has been authorized by the Town Council, said committee to be charged by the Town Council to consider tax relief taking into account the above-noted proposed parameters.

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Wright
Opposed: 3 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Kolnaski and Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

2006-0306 GMEA/CILU Pension Agreement

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PENSION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Town and the Groton Municipal Employees Association - CILU have negotiated and agreed upon a successor pension agreement that is proposed to be in effect from January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2012, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that the amortization of the costs of the proposed agreement over a ten-year period, as appropriate, will be acceptable and compatible with previous budget decisions, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the tentative Agreement Providing for Pensions for Members of the Groton Municipal Employees Association, dated 12/4/06, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes such expenditures from the General Fund as may be necessary for the effectuation of this agreement.

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

"WHEREAS" clauses of the resolutions, including the prior item regarding the Citizen Committee on Property Tax Relief.

The motion carried unanimously

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider this next item which was discussed in tonight's special COW meeting was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor O'Beirne and so voted unanimously.

2006-0312

Resolution Authorizing Town Manager to Enter into an Agreement for Elderly/Disabled Transportation

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR A GRANT FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2006 the Town Council authorized Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to apply for a dial-a-ride grant for transportation of seniors and disabled persons, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to enter into an agreement on behalf of the Town of Groton with the Department of Transportation of the State of Connecticut for the Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation Expanded Program, and to affix the corporate seal.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk

*Elga Concepcion
Office Assistant*